

Of the beautiful and curious order *Fungi*, no species seems to enjoy a reputation for medicinal virtues, yet it is rather remarkable that while from Tahiti and other places, large quantities of a species abundant in our scrubs, *Hirneola auricula Judæ*, Fr., or Jew's ear, are shipped to China to be there used in soup, no one seems to have attempted collecting the article here. At one time this curious fungus was a popular remedy for sore throats the Rev. M. J. Berkeley says, probably from some fancied resemblance of the hymenium to the fauces. From our *Fungi* as also from our *Lichens* valuable dyes might probably be obtained.

ON QUEENSLAND FERNS, WITH A DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES.

BY F. M. BAILEY, F.L.S., &c.

As I am about to publish a work on the Australian Ferns, it may be as well to bring before the Society a few of the changes I propose making in the nomenclature with also descriptions of the few new species which will be found therein. Thus all the *Doodias* I propose placing as forms under the one—*D. aspera*. R. Br. The advisability of this will be patent to all who have had the advantage of observing the close approach of the various forms of the usually acknowledged two species *D. aspera* and *D. caudata*, to each other. I shall in all cases retain old names, so that those who may differ with me on this point will have no difficulty in finding the fern required. *Pteris rotundifolia*, Forst., I propose reducing to a form of *P. falcata*, R. Br., and although I retain *P. paradoxa*, R. Br. I feel persuaded that this species will before long only be looked upon as another form of *P. falcata*. The pretty fern *Cheilanthes Sieberi*, will also be retained as a distinct form of *C. tenuifolia*.

SCHIZEA FORSTERI, Spreng.

Rhizome short, scaly. Fronds three to nine inches high, glossy, stipes light coloured, channelled; the upper portion of frond

dichotomously divided into five segments, which are rather broad for the size of the frond, glossy, and taper to a neck-like contraction at the apex, thus giving a stipitate appearance to the fructification which is composed of from four to six hairy pinnules, shorter than in *S. dichotoma*, and placed digitato-pinnate, not pectinato-pinnate as in that species; spore-cases biserial as in the other Australian species.

When I first met with this lovely species it was growing at the bases of the Palm trees at Maroochie, a very rich fern locality in the Bunya Mountains, I then took it for a new species, but my excellent and learned friend, Baron Mueller identified it with the *S. Fosteri*, of Sprengel, and noticed it in the eighth volume of his valuable work the "Fragmenta Phytographia Australia," since then I met with it at Trinity Bay growing in a similar manner at, and amongst the roots of the Palms in very swampy localities.

TRICHOMANES YANDINENSE, *n.s.*

Rhizoma filiforme dense intricatum pileis ferruginosis plus minusve indutum; frondibus breve stipitatis ovatis vel cuneatis, marginibus æqualibus vel parum inæqualibus, (repandis) apice aliquando parum lobato 4 ad 5". Venis magnis, pinnate costiformibus venulis numerosis quasi striatis, venis marginalibus vel intramarginalibus coalescentibus. Soris 1, 2, 3, apicalibus. Indusium profunde situm basim versus attenuatum apice latum expansum, Receptaculum parum exsertum.

In truncis disjectis vel cortice arborum valles fontosas, flumine Maroochie, districtu Yandina dispersum.

Trichomanes yandinense, (new species).—Rhizome filiform densely and intricately matted and more or less clothed with ferruginous hairs. Fronds shortly stipitate ovate to cuneate, the margins even or slightly uneven (repand), the apex at times slightly lobed four to six lines long. Veins pinnately costæform with regard to the main ones, but between these are numerous striæform ones with also a marginal or intramarginal one to which they all join. Sori terminal, usually solitary at the apex of the perfect ovate

frond, but on some two or three, then giving a more truncate appearance to the frond. Indusium sunk in the frond, attenuated towards the base, the mouth broad, spreading. Receptacle slightly exserted. On logs and tree trunks, Maroochie, (Yandina) situated about 80 miles from Brisbane on the Northern Road.

POLYPODIUM PALLIDUM, n. s.

Rhizoma breve horizontale, crassum, squamulis pallidis nitentibus indutum; frondibus 1' ad 4' alt. bi-tri-pinnatis, pinnulis majoribus 1' pinnulis secund. lanceolatis 2" ad 4", pinnulis minoribus linearibus obtusis 6" ad 1" 6", alibus costulorum plus minusve constrictis. Venis pinnatis. Soris paucis vel 14, parvis, obscure fuscis; sporulis haud numerosis. Stipite basim versus lato, pallido, pileis, vel squamulis mollibus, marcescentibus, induto. Polypodium undique plus minusve pileis albis glandulosis indutum. Ennogera Creek prope Brisbane.

Rhizome short, horizontal, thick, clothed with bright glossy, pale coloured scales. Fronds one to four feet high, stipes stout at the base and clothed with soft hair-like scales, which soon fall leaving the stipes glabrous and pale or glaucous as well as the rhachis, bitripinnate, larger pinnæ 1 foot or more long, secondary pinnæ lanceolate two to four inches long, pinnules linear obtuse half to one and a-half inches long, more or less connected by the narrow wing of the costa, the whole plant more or less covered with white glandular hairs. Veins pinnate. Sori from a few to fourteen on a lobe, when ripe the spore-cases often of a dark colour, all small and usually few in each sorus. Found at Ennogera Creek, near Brisbane.

There is not the least doubt but that this fern is a true *Polypodium* although it seems in the *Flora Australiensis* to have been placed with *Aspidium tenericaule*, Th. A mistake that might occur from the examination of dried specimens, but never from living ones; the name used is appropriate, and the plant is most likely identical with that of Bruckenridge, but none of his authentic specimens are in the colony so there is some doubt on this point.

POLYPODIUM ASPIDIODES, *n. s.*

Rhizoma horizontale, tenue, repens, breve. Fronde 12" ad 18 generatim ovato-lanceolata (speciminibus majoribus ovato-angulata); stipite longo, gracili sulcato, ad basim dense squamoso, squamis intense fuscis, ovatis acuminatis, foliis bi-tri-pinnatis, pinnulæ apice elongatæ, superne coriaceæ, nitentæ; stipite et costulis pilosis; venis pinnatis extra marginem dentibus aculeatis terminatis. Soris mediatis. In ripas umbrosas Brisbane fluminis abundans, foliis vel frondibus nitentibus facile detectum.

Rhizome horizontal, thin, shortly creeping. Fronds 12 to 18 inches long, usually ovate-lanceolate in the small form, but more triangular-ovate in the larger, in outline, the stipes long, slender, sulcate and densely covered at or near the base with dark brown ovate acuminate scales, bitripinnate, the pinnæ and lower pinnules much elongated at the apex, the upper surface glossy, rhachis and costules hairy. Veins pinnate ending beyond the margin in aculeate teeth. Sori medial. Found abundant in the Brisbane River scrubs, and at once detected by the shining upper surface of the fronds. This beautiful fern has been for a long time confused with *Lastrea acuminata*, T. Moore, *Aspidium acuminatum*, Hort., Ang., but from which it differs in the absence of indusia and in the longer, more aculeate marginal teeth.

Var. *tropica*. This form has been thought to be identical with the species called by Blume *P. rufescens*. It differs slightly from *P. aspidioides* in wanting the gloss on the upper surface of frond, is less divided, often wanting the marginal teeth, being more crenulated on the obtuse pinnules, the close, soft, pubescence having also a reddish tinge, these variations might in a great measure be due to climate. Ranges, Trinity Bay Queensland.

ACROSTICHUM NEGLECTUM, *n. s.*

Rhizoma squamosum, fuscum, durum, Lomariæ simillimum, frondibus fertilibus et sterilibus 1' ad 3' alt. lanceolatis, profunde pinnatifidis,

segmentis angustis, linearibus, marginatis. Stipite frond. steril. alibus dentatis vel lobatis marginatis, segment. lanceolatis, serratis, dentibus serratis vel aculeatis, long. 3" ad 6", lat. 6" ad 9". Alæ supradictæ lat. 6". Venis ut in A. repandum.

In vallis perumbrosis, Trinity Bay Range.

Rhizome creeping, scaly, dark coloured, hard. Fronds of two kinds like a *Lomaria*, one to three feet high, lanceolate in outline, deeply pinnatifid, stipes in the fertile frond more than half its length, and bordered by a narrow wing, segments linear, joined by the narrow wing of rachis, but not decurrent, one and a-half to three inches long. Stipe of sterile frond half the length of frond, bordered by a toothed or lobed wing to the base, segments lanceolate coarsely serrated, teeth almost aculeate, and some again serrate, three to six inches long, half to three-quarter inches broad, joined at the base by the wing of rhachis which is about half an inch broad, veins as in *A. repandum*.

I met with this beautiful species in a close gully of the Trinity Bay Ranges, in May 1877. Dr. Prentice tells me that Mr. W. Hill brought the same species from the North of Queensland several years before, and that he saw while on a visit to England a specimen of the same labeled in J. Smith's herbarium as *A. repandum*, from which it differs widely, both according to the diagnosis given in Hooker's "species *Filicum*," with which our form of *A. repandum* perfectly agrees.

I forward typical specimens of the following:—*Schizæa Fosteri*, Spreng.; *Trichomanes yandinense*, (*n.s.*); *Polypodium aspidioides*, (*n.s.*) also var. *tropica*, (*n.s.*); and *Polypodium pallidum*.

ON SOME POLYZOA FROM THE QUEENSLAND COAST.

BY WILLIAM A. HASWELL, M.A., B.Sc.

[Plates 1—3.]

Among a large series of *Polyzoa* which I obtained while at Port Denison last spring, are many rare and some new species, and of